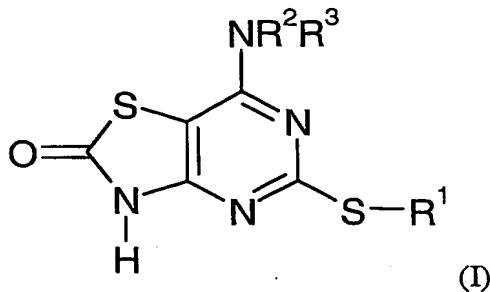


CLAIMS

1. A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:

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in which

- R¹ represents a C₃-C₇ carbocyclic, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl group, each of
10 the groups being optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹ or an aryl or heteroaryl group, both of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰,
15 -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl or trifluoromethyl groups;
- R² and R³ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, or a C₃-C₇ carbocyclic, C₁-C₈ alkyl, C₂-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ alkynyl group, the latter four groups may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from:
20 (a) halogen atoms, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -CONR⁵R⁶, -COOR⁷, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SR¹⁰, -SO₂R¹⁰, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹;
(b) a 3-8 membered ring optionally containing one or more atoms selected from O, S, NR⁸ and itself optionally substituted by C₁-C₃-alkyl or halogen; or
(c) an aryl group or heteroaryl group each of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms, cyano, nitro, -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶,
25 -CONR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸COR⁹, -SO₂NR⁵R⁶, -NR⁸SO₂R⁹, C₁-C₆ alkyl and trifluoromethyl groups;

R^4 represents hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl or a phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹¹ and -NR¹²R¹³

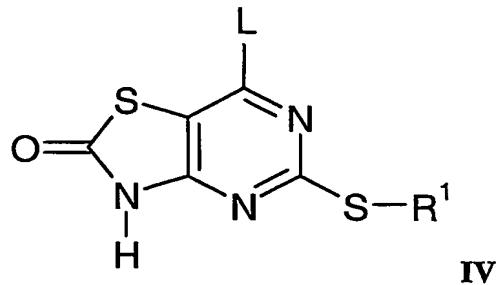
R^5 and R^6 independently represent a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆ alkyl or phenyl group the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹⁴ and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁵COR¹⁶, -SONR¹⁵R¹⁶, NR¹⁵SO₂R¹⁶

or

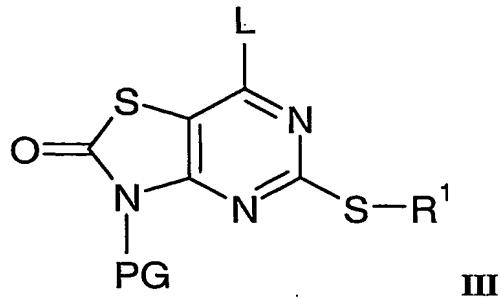
R^5 and R^6 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 4- to 10 7-membered saturated heterocyclic ring system optionally containing a further heteroatom selected from oxygen and nitrogen atoms, which ring system may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from phenyl, -OR¹⁴, -COOR¹⁴, -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁵R¹⁶, -NR¹⁵COR¹⁶, -SONR¹⁵R¹⁶, NR¹⁵SO₂R¹⁶ or C₁-C₆ alkyl, itself optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from halogen atoms 15 and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶ and -OR¹⁷ groups;

R^{10} represents a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₆-alkyl or a phenyl group, the latter two of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituent groups independently selected from halogen atoms, phenyl, -OR¹⁷ and -NR¹⁵R¹⁶; and each of R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} independently represents a hydrogen atom 20 or a C₁-C₆ alkyl, or a phenyl group.

which method comprises contacting

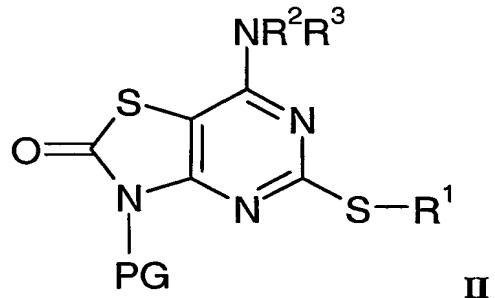


25 wherein L is a leaving group with a thiazole nitrogen protecting group reagent under appropriate reaction conditions to form a compound of the formula



wherein PG is a protecting group,

- 5 reacting the compound of formula III with an amine of formula HNR^2R^3
to form a compound of formula

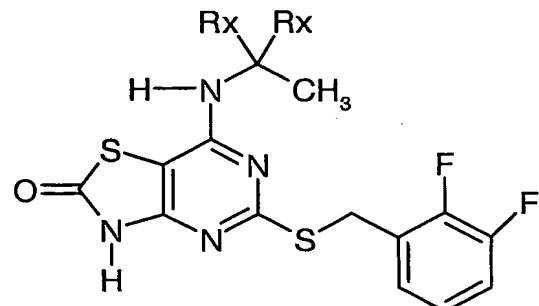


- and deprotection of the compound of formula II to give a compound of the formula I, and
10 simultaneous or sequential conversion to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 and wherein R^1 represents an optionally substituted benzyl group.

- 15 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 and wherein one of R^2 or R^3 is hydrogen and the other is $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$ alkyl substituted by hydroxy and one or more methyl or ethyl groups.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1 for the preparation of compounds of the formula Ia



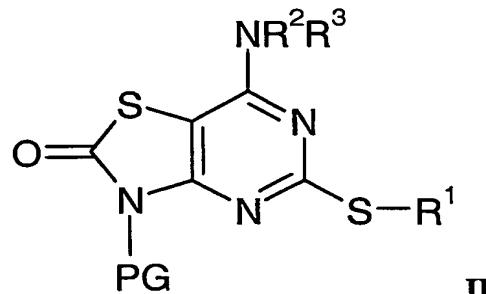
Ia

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wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen, a C_{1-4} alkyl group optionally substituted by hydroxy, amino, $-O-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-S-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-N-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, $-NHSO_2R$, or $-CONR_2$ and provided that both R^X are not hydrogen or amino.

10 5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each R^X is independently selected from hydrogen and hydroxymethyl, provided that both R^X are not hydrogen.

6. A compound of the formula

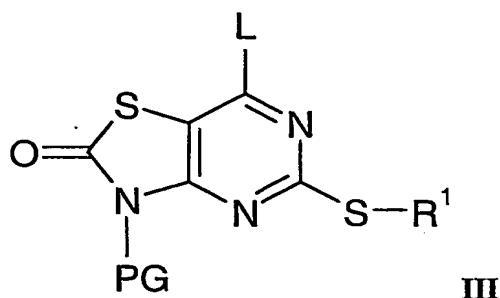


II

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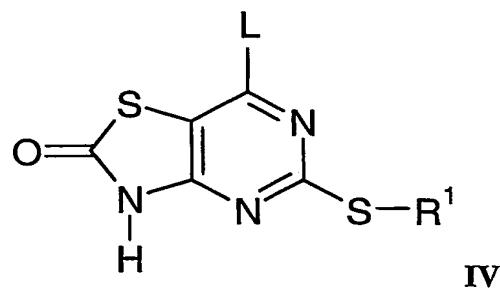
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, R^2 , R^3 and R^1 have the meanings stated in claim 1.

7. A compound of the formula



5 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein PG, L and R¹ have the meanings stated in claim 1.

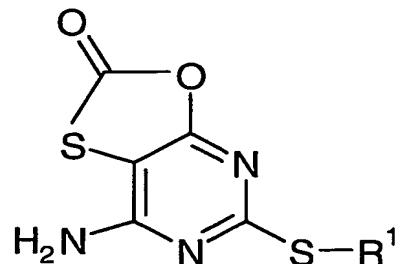
8. A compound of the formula



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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein L is a leaving group other than chlorine and R¹ has the meaning stated in claim 1.

15 9. A compound of the formula



V

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof and wherein R¹ has the meaning stated in claim 1.

10. A compound selected from

- 5 5-[[*(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl*]thio]-7-[(*(1R)-2-hydroxy-1-methylethyl*)amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt;
- 5-[[*(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl*]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, sodium salt; and
- 5-[[*(2,3-difluorophenyl)methyl*]thio]-7-[[2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)-1-methylethyl]amino]thiazolo[4,5-*d*]pyrimidin-2(3H)-one, potassium salt.